

Remarks

Claims 1 and 11 are sought to be amended. Claims 29 and 30 are sought to be added. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8, 10-11, 27, and 29-30 are pending in the application, with 1 being the sole independent claim. No new matter has been entered based on these amendments.

Based on the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,249,370 to Takeuchi et. al. ("Takeuchi"). Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 11, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) ("103") as being unpatentable over Takeuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,549,694 to Makino et al. ("Makino"). Claim 6 was rejected under 103 as being unpatentable over Takeuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,722 to Amm et al. ("Amm"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Amended Claim 1 recites at least a continuous solid and substantially rigid substrate.

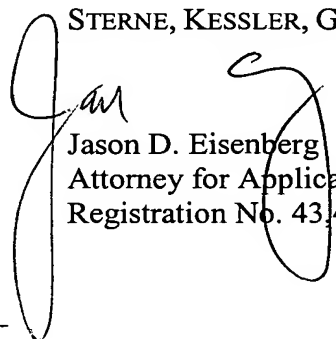
In the asserted embodiment of Takeuchi, as shown in Figure 26, substrate 22 is not continuous, but fabricated into many independent rigid 28 and vibrating 26 sections. Thus, Takeuchi does not teach or suggest a continuous solid and substantially rigid substrate, as recited in claim 1. None of the other references rectify this deficiency in Takeuchi. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1. Also, at least based on their dependency, claims 2-8, 10-11, 27, and 29-30 should be found allowable over the applied references.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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